

LEARN how to make a Clay Owl using basic clay hand-building techniques such as joining two pieces together using “score” and “slip.” Then make your own creative mark by decorating with texture and paint.

GATHER your art supplies:

- Any air-dry clay or salt dough*
- Dull pencil
- Paint brush
- Small container of water
- A bowl 6” in diameter
- Piece of paper
- Fork and other texture making objects

CREATE your own Clay Owl! Follow along with the video tutorial at tennesseecraft.org/kids.

Step 1: Pound ball of clay into an evenly flat circle 1/4 inch thick. Place rim of bowl on clay and drag pencil around bowl to cut a circle. Press objects into clay using toys or household items to create texture.

Step 2: Fold over the sides of the circle creating 2 flaps to make the owl wings. Lightly trace the edge of the wing with a pencil before carefully opening the flap back up.

Step 3: Use the pencil to “score” or make cross hatch marks into the clay on the wing and where it will lie on the body. Use a paint brush to dab water onto the scored surface. Water with a little clay in it acts like clay glue and is called “slip.” Now press and wiggle the wing onto the body firmly until it is attached. Press texture into the wings.

Step 4: Repeat the process to fold the top portion down and make the head. Trace, open up, score and add water or slip to the surfaces before pressing together. Using clay scraps, form and attach a beak using scoring and water or slip.

Step 5: Pinch the corners of the head to form the tufts or “ears.” Using a bottle cap or marker cap, press in two eyes. Use a pencil or other items to create a face. Poke a hole near each “ear.” When completely dry, paint your owl. Use string, ribbon, wire, etc., to pull through the “ear” holes to hang.

SHARE your artwork with friends and family on Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #tncraftkids!



“The Clay Owl” is an activity developed by Metro Parks Visual Arts (MPVA) & Centennial Art Center and will be provided for the youth in certain community centers this summer as a pilot arts program. MPVA has three pottery studios where Nashville residents can take high quality, low-cost pottery classes, located in Centennial Art Center, West Park and Bellevue Community Centers. Centennial Art Center and Bellevue Community Center both have painting studios where drawing and painting classes are offered as well.



*To make your own salt dough, visit clay-it-now.com/nocookplaydough.html